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Marta W. Engel D.V.M.

Janna Kottke D.V.M.

Laura U. Buss D.V.M.

315 E. Decker St., Viroqua, WI 54665

Ph. 608-637-2227 * Fax 608-638-2648

Ovariohysterectomy in Cats **(Spaying)**

General Information

Ovariohysterectomy is the medical term for spaying in female cats. The procedure consists of surgical removal of the ovaries and uterus. The surgery is usually performed at 4 - 7 months of age, before the first heat cycle.

Although it is routinely performed, ovariohysterectomy is major abdominal surgery requiring general anesthesia and sterile operating technique.

Prevention of heat cycles and pregnancy is the main reason for the surgery, but the procedure is also performed in treating severe uterine infections, ovarian and uterine cancer, and some skin disorders.

What Are the Advantages?

- There will be no more heat cycles.
- There will be no unwanted kittens.
- The uterine infections common to older cats rarely occur.
- There is less chance of mammary gland cancer.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Will it make my cat fat and lazy?* No. Obesity is caused by excessive calorie intake. Weight can be controlled with proper feeding and exercise.
2. *Will it change her disposition, personality, or intelligence?* Cats' personalities do not fully develop until about 1 year of age. If there is a personality change after spaying at an early age, it would have occurred without surgery.
3. *Shouldn't my cat have a litter first?* No. There is no advantage in allowing your cat to have a litter of kittens.

Important Considerations Before Surgery

- All vaccinations should be current before surgery.
- Your cat should be free of intestinal parasites (worms).
- Do not feed your cat for approximately 15 hours before admittance for surgery. (No food after 6 PM the night before- water is O.K.)
Some care and recovery time is required after surgery.